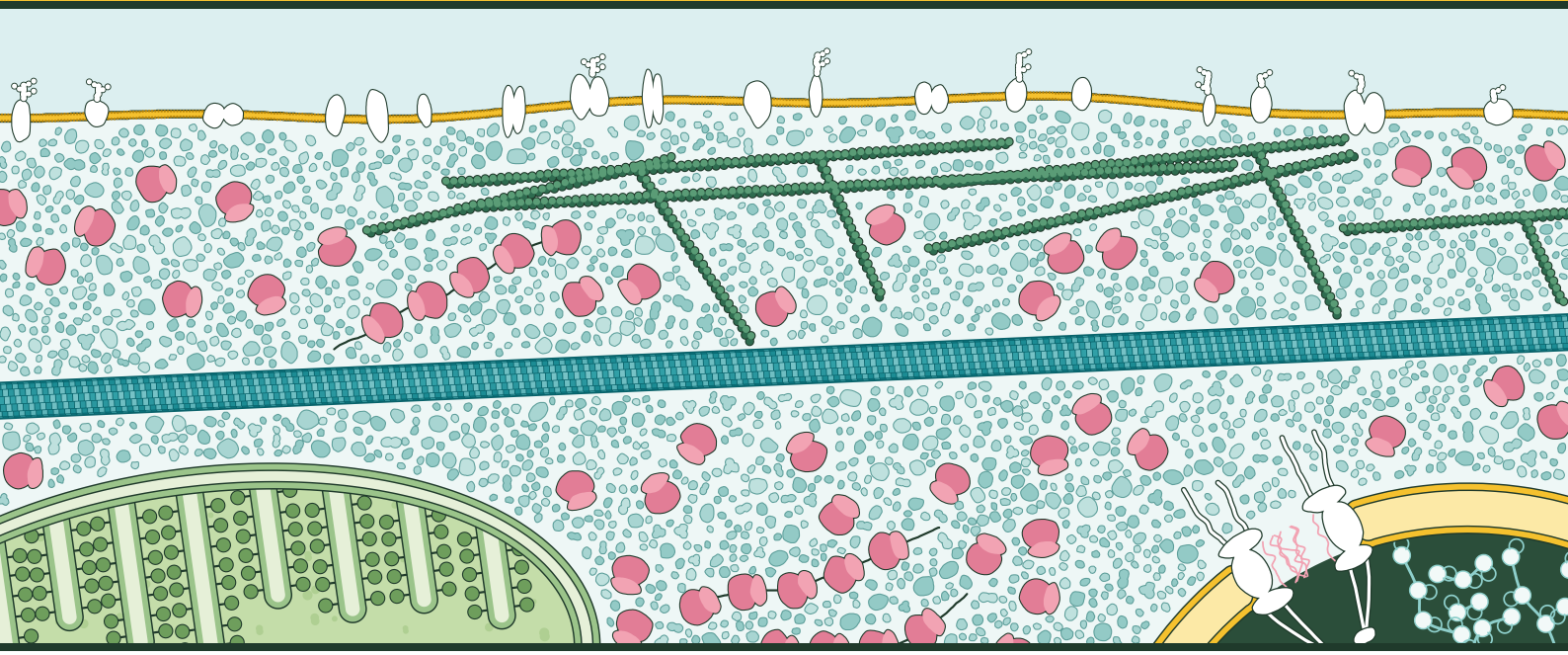
IBioC

Edition 2027

Information Flyer

International Biology Competition



Solve the puzzles of life.

QUALIFICATION ROUND DEADLINE
Sunday, 1 August 2027

An online biology competition in three rounds for school and university students worldwide.

1 What is IBioC?

Vision, Mission and Values

Biology is the science of life, from the molecules inside a single cell to the ecosystems that cover the planet. Medicine, agriculture, conservation and the response to a changing climate all depend on it, and our society needs curious, careful thinkers who can read evidence and work out what it means.

The International Biology Competition offers students a platform to challenge their analytical and problem-solving skills, to explore the full breadth of biology and to go beyond the standard school curriculum. We believe that combining education with friendly competition can spark a lasting passion for the life sciences, and perhaps lead to a career in research, medicine, conservation, education or industry.

IBioC is open to students from all countries. All you need is a pen, paper and an internet connection.

What makes IBioC unique?

Competition is part of IBioC, but our core mission is genuine engagement with biology: less memorising, more working things out.

- **Internationality:** From the very first round, IBioC is a global event. All participants tackle the same problems, which ensures a fair assessment.
- **Digital Accessibility:** All rounds take place online, so students can take part wherever they live and whatever school they attend.
- **Problems Built on Real Data:** Enzyme rates, bird-ringing records, genetic crosses and field counts: you get the measurements and decide what they mean. School biology is enough to start.
- **From Molecules to the Whole Planet:** Five areas of biology, each with a home biome: plants and fungi (forest); cells, molecules and microbes (reef); human and animal physiology (tundra); genetics, evolution and behaviour (savanna); ecology and conservation (wetland).
- **Real-World Research:** In the Semi-Final Round you prepare a recent research paper, then solve a problem on it in the exam.
- **Scaling Difficulty Levels:** The problems engage experienced biology enthusiasts as well as students who are just beginning to explore the subject.
- **Online Tools for Educators:** A dedicated teacher account to follow students' results and

documents, cover registration costs for a group and supervise exams.

- **Local Communities and Ambassadors:** Our Ambassador Program empowers motivated students to inspire their peers and organise local activities.

2 Who can participate?

School and university students from all grades and countries are invited to take part. Everyone solves the same problems in every round; older groups need more points to move on. There are three age groups:

GROUP	WHO IS IN IT	TO SEMI-FINAL	TO FINAL
Junior	10th grade or below, and under 16	**15**	**8**
Youth	11th to 13th grade, or 16 and older	**17**	**10**
Senior	At college or university, or 19 and older	**20**	**12**

To succeed, you need curiosity, careful reading, analytical thinking and some mathematical skills. A reliable internet connection is necessary to take part and to submit your work.

My age or grade changes after the submission deadline. Which group do I belong to?

Your grade or age on the day of the Qualification Round deadline (Sunday, 1 August 2027) decides your age group, and it stays the same for the whole competition.

Do I have to be a student to participate?

Yes. The competition is open to students currently enrolled at a school, college or university. If you are between school and university (for example in a gap year) and intend to begin university studies soon, you are also welcome to take part.

3 Why participate?

IBioC is first of all an educational initiative: it lets students develop and show their skills across the whole of biology. To encourage enthusiasm and friendly competition, participants also receive certificates and can earn honours, cash prizes and international recognition.

Every participant receives a certificate. In the Final Round, outstanding performance is recognised with Bronze, Silver or Gold Honours. The best students in each age group receive the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prize, and National Awards go to the highest-scoring participants from each country. The awards are worth a total of 2,500 USD, including cash prizes and special partner program awards.

Senior

1st Prize	**150 USD**	Cash prize and special 1st Prize certificate
2nd Prize	**125 USD**	Cash prize and special 2nd Prize certificate
3rd Prize	**100 USD**	Cash prize and special 3rd Prize certificate

Youth

1st Prize	**150 USD**	Cash prize and special 1st Prize certificate
2nd Prize	**125 USD**	Cash prize and special 2nd Prize certificate
3rd Prize	**100 USD**	Cash prize and special 3rd Prize certificate

Junior

1st Prize	**150 USD**	Cash prize and special 1st Prize certificate
2nd Prize	**125 USD**	Cash prize and special 2nd Prize certificate
3rd Prize	**100 USD**	Cash prize and special 3rd Prize certificate

We further honour the following achievements:

Partner Awards	Special awards worth over 1,400 USD from our partners (top participants matching the eligibility criteria)
National Awards	Special National Award certificate
All Finalists	Participation certificate with Bronze, Silver or Gold Honour
All Participants	Official participation certificate

Who will receive National Awards?

IBioC is a global competition, so we honour the top three participants from each country who achieve at least 50% of all points in the Final Round with a special National Award certificate. A list of the top national scorers is published on our website.

Is there a special honour for typeset solutions?

Yes. All participants who write their Qualification Round solutions with a computer program (for example TEX) receive a special honourary note on their certificate.

Awards for Ambassadors

Each year, we recognise the most active and committed ambassadors, based on the number of students they encouraged, their documented activities and their community engagement:

- **Ambassador Award for Most Participants:** for the ambassador who encouraged the most students to take part.
- **Ambassador Award for Most Finalists:** for the ambassador who supported the most students into the Final Round.
- **Ambassador Award for Excellent Encouragement:** for ambassadors who are extraordinarily active in their local community.
- **Ambassador Award for the Rising Newcomer:** for new ambassadors who already made a significant contribution in their first edition.
- **Ambassador Award for Science Communication:** for particularly creative or accessible ways of communicating biology.
- **Ambassador Award for Collaboration:** for impactful collaborations with other ambassadors, schools, universities or institutions.
- **Ambassador Award for Long-Term Impact:** for ambassadors who have contributed for at least three years.

Awards for Teachers and Schools

Teachers and schools play a vital role in scientific education. These awards are honorary and not connected to cash prizes:

- **Teacher Award for Most Final Round Participants:** for the teacher who mentored the most Final Round participants.
- **Teacher of the Year:** for an outstanding teacher with exceptional dedication and proactive engagement.
- **Teaching Impact Award:** for teachers whose students achieved outstanding results.
- **School Award for Most Participants:** for the school with the most participants in the Qualification Round.
- **School Award for Most Finalists:** for the school with the most participants in the Final Round.
- **School Award for Excellence:** for schools with many outstanding students or particular support for their participants.

How do schools become eligible for these awards?

Schools take part automatically when students register with the school name. Please make sure that all students write the school name correctly and in the same way. We also recommend that teachers register with IBioC.

Further Achievements

Global Network: Winners and participants become part of the IBioC alumni network, a community of talented students from around the world.

Opportunities: Our team shares information about international and regional opportunities, such as scholarships, summer schools and other competitions, with qualified participants and through the alumni platform.

Do I receive a hard copy of my certificate?

Hard copies are mailed to all 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prize winners. All other participants receive high-quality digital certificates (PDF) with a permanent verification ID: https://ibioc.org/verify

4 Process and Rounds

IBioC has three rounds: the Qualification Round, the Semi-Final Round and the Final Round. Think of it as a transect: you walk it in order, and each stop goes a little deeper than the last.

Qualification Round

The Qualification Round is the starting point. It has five biology problems (A to E), worth 5 points each and 25 points in total. You download the problem sheet, work on it in your own time and submit your solutions online. To qualify for the Semi-Final Round, you need at least:

15 points	17 points	20 points
Junior	Youth	Senior

All participants receive a participation certificate. There are no fees or registration costs for the Qualification Round.

QUALIFICATION ROUND DEADLINE

Submit your solutions by **Sunday, 1 August 2027**, 23:59 UTC. The deadline is strictly enforced, so please submit early.

Solutions and Submission

Prepare one solution document with written explanations for **all problems**, either typed (recommended, for example with TEX or a word processor) or as clear photos of your handwritten work combined into a single PDF. Show your working: points are awarded for correct reasoning and solution steps, even if the final answer is wrong. When you submit, a participant account is created automatically: https://ibioc.org/login

You may work on the Qualification Round problems together with friends or classmates and receive basic help (for example from a teacher), but everyone writes and submits their own solutions. Copying solutions, from other people or from the internet, is not allowed.

Announcement of Results

The results are announced on **Monday, 16 August 2027**. You receive an e-mail, and your results, performance report and certificate appear in your participant account.

Semi-Final Round

Participants who pass the Qualification Round are invited to the Semi-Final Round, with more challenging problems. It is a supervised 60-minute exam with three problems:

- **A: Basic Problem (4 points)**, lower difficulty.
- **B: Advanced Problem (6 points)**, higher difficulty.
- **C: Research Problem (8 points)**, based on a recent biology research paper that you read in preparation.

The maximum score is 18 points. To qualify for the Final Round, you need at least 8/10/12 points (Junior/Youth/Senior).

Process and Exam

The research paper is released on **Friday, 10 September 2027**. You can then take the exam at any time from **Sunday, 12 September 2027** until **Tuesday, 14 September 2027** on the exam platform (https://ibioc.org/exam) with a computer or phone. You write your solutions on paper and scan them afterwards; the research paper is available in the exam interface. The exam is supervised by a teacher (recommended) or by our online supervision system from home. Working together or receiving help from other people is not permitted. Qualified participants receive a detailed Semi-Final Round information document.

Registration and Costs

If you pass the Qualification Round, you can register for the Semi-Final Round in your participant account.

SEMI-FINAL ROUND REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Register by **Tuesday, 7 September 2027**.

This educational opportunity comes with costs for human resources, technical infrastructure, evaluation, materials and more. Our sponsors cover some of these expenses, but we ask participants to cover this year's Semi-Final Round registration costs of **12 EUR**. There are no other costs. Financial aid, including partial and full waivers, is available: https://ibioc.org/financialaid. Details: Registration Costs Flyer 2027.

Can I take part only in the Qualification Round?

Yes. You can take part only in the Qualification Round and receive your certificate. You would not continue to the next rounds or be eligible for the Final Round awards.

Final Round

Participants who pass the Semi-Final Round qualify for the Final Round: one supervised online exam with about 30 questions, multiple choice and short answer, covering the whole competition. It takes about 40 minutes. You take it from home with online monitoring; receiving help from any person is not permitted.

Awards and prizes go to the finalists with the most points in the Final Round. If participants have the same score, the points from the Semi-Final Round (and the Qualification Round) decide.

FINAL ROUND EXAM

All Final Round exams take place on **Tuesday, 12 October 2027**. The results are announced on **Monday, 18 October 2027**.

Timetable and Deadlines

All deadlines are at 23:59 UTC.

Qualification Round

Sunday, 1 August 2027	Submission deadline
Monday, 16 August 2027	Announcement of results

Semi-Final Round

Tuesday, 7 September 2027	Registration deadline
Friday, 10 September 2027	Release of the research paper
Sunday, 12 September 2027 to Tuesday, 14 September 2027	Exam period
Monday, 27 September 2027	Announcement of results

Final Round

Tuesday, 12 October 2027	Final Round exam
Monday, 18 October 2027	Announcement of results

5 Information for Teachers

Teachers, schools and parents are warmly invited to share IBioC as an extracurricular challenge for students interested in biology. We provide the tools and resources to use the competition in class.

- A teacher account to see your students' results and documents, cover Semi-Final Round registration costs for a group and supervise exams.
- The School Partnership Program, with dedicated tools, support and recognition.
- Awards for teachers and schools with many participants and strong results (see Section 3).
- Training materials, problem sets and classroom-ready resources.

Register as a teacher: https://ibioc.org/teacher-registration

If you would like to start a biology club at your school, use IBioC problems in class or need promotional material, please visit our website or contact us at teachers@ibioc.org.

6 Ambassador Program

As a global competition, IBioC relies on passionate ambassadors to reach students in schools, cities and countries. Ambassadors bring IBioC to their school and community: they build a local group, organise activities, encourage students to take part and help participants with their questions.

Requirements and Benefits

You need to be at least 14, interested in biology and able to communicate in basic English. Ambassadors receive:

- An official ambassador certificate.
- Leadership experience in a global network.
- Priority consideration for financial aid.
- Recognition on our website and social media.
- A chance at the annual Ambassador Awards (see Section 3).
- Your own e-mail address.

Application Process

Applying takes two stages:

1. A form with a motivation letter, CV and transcript.
2. A short introduction video and some problems.

Apply here: https://ibioc.org/application

7 Further Information

Participant Account

All participants receive a personal online account to manage their submission, check their results and download performance reports and certificates: https://ibioc.org/login

Materials and Documents

Our website offers further material to promote the International Biology Competition: information flyers like this one, printable posters, a presentation and training resources: https://ibioc.org/resources

Newsletter and Notifications

Subscribe to notifications on our website to stay updated about deadlines, events, biology opportunities and other important announcements.

Contact and Questions

If you have questions or feedback, please first consult the FAQ on our website (https://ibioc.org/support) or contact your local IBioC ambassador. You can also reach the central IBioC team by e-mail: info@ibioc.org

Organisers

The International Biology Competition is an independent initiative led by a team committed to advancing biology education. Meet the team online: https://ibioc.org/team

The main coordinators of this year's competition are:

- Program Coordinator: Dr. Rami Aly, coordinator@ibioc.org
- Team Coordinator: Fabian Schneider, info@ibioc.org
- Outreach Coordinator: Victor Prado Both, ambassadors@ibioc.org

We thank all coordinators, volunteers and partners whose dedication makes the International Biology Competition possible for students around the world.